ENJOY YOUR CARCINOGEN-LADEN HOLIDAY FEAST! PAGES 10-11

Environment & Climate News

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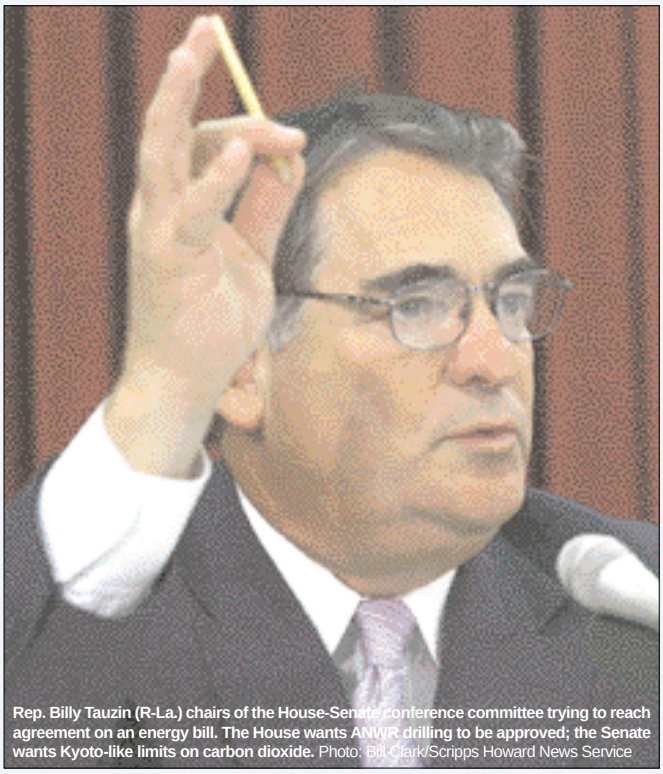
Energy bill hangs in balance



Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-La.) chairs of the House-Senate conference committee trying to reach agreement on an energy bill. The House wants ANWR drilling to be approved; the Senate wants Kyoto-like limits on carbon dioxide. Photo: Bill Clark/Scripps Howard News Service

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

The future of America's energy supply hung in the balance as the fall Congressional term neared its end. As this publication went to press, negotiators from the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives were scrambling to reach agreement on an energy bill they could sell to voters in the November elections.

With an impasse still firmly in place, Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-Louisiana), chairman of the House-Senate energy bill conference committee, hinted Republicans might agree to far-reaching carbon dioxide limitations in exchange for access to oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

"The Senate very clearly wants to have climate change in the bill. We very clearly on the House side want to see ANWR," said Tauzin. "There might be a trade here. We'll look for it. Everything is on the table."

Republican willingness to accept the Senate's Kyoto-like carbon dioxide limitations could be what it takes to bridge the wide chasm between the House and Senate bills. The question, however, is at what cost.

Anti-energy bill

"The Senate's energy bill is really an anti-energy bill," noted Myron Ebell, director of global warming and international environmental

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Daschle stops Healthy Forests Initiative in Senate

November elections likely to decide forests' fate

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

President George W. Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative stalled in the U.S. Senate this fall as political maneuvering by the Democratic leadership assured the proposal would not attract the votes it needed to pass.

On the strength of bipartisan cooperation, majority support for the initiative seemed assured during Senate debate. Then Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) invoked his power to require a 60-vote supermajority for passage of the initiative.

Without enough votes for a supermajority, Healthy Forests supporters spent the final week of September filibustering the Senate's appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of the Interior. Had the initiative passed the Senate, its funding would have come from the Interior Department.

Special treatment

The Interior bill "remains at an impasse because the Senate Democratic leadership will not work to find a compromise that will allow Western senators to provide their dry states with a way of logging forests in fire-prone areas," said Senator Trent Lott (R-Mississippi). "However, Senate Majority Leader Daschle has allowed himself this luxury in his home state."

Lott was referring to a discovery on July 23 that Daschle had quietly inserted into a spending bill language that exempted forests in his home state from environmental regulations and lawsuits. (See "Daschle double-dealing scorches Healthy Forests opponents," *Environment & Climate News*, October 2002.) The South Dakota forestry measure was slipped into a defense

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Greens suffer setback at Johannesburg summit

BY BONNER R. COHEN

In a stunning setback for the anti-market "Green" wing of the global environmental movement, delegates at the recently concluded World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa rejected calls for restricting poorer nations' access to energy and technology.

Instead, the UN-sponsored summit approved a document, known as the Action Plan, that essentially redefined the term "sustainable development" to encourage adoption by developing countries of the political institutions and technological advancements that underlie the wealth of industrialized nations.

Rejecting the Green agenda

To the consternation of thousands of anti-capitalist activists who journeyed to Johannesburg (many of them financed by grants from the European Union), representatives of developing countries turned their backs on the Green agenda laid down at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Throughout the 11-day Johannesburg summit, Green activists repeatedly called for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by cutting back the use of fossil fuels. They demanded the summit delegates adopt rigid targets and timetables for the mandated use of renewable sources of energy,

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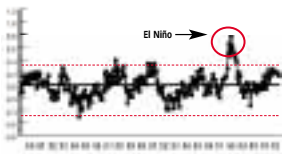
Is *this* global warming?

GLOBAL TEMPERATURES



Each month, Earth Track updates the global averaged monthly satellite measurements of the Earth's temperature. *See page 3*

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Floridians battle bureaucrats to save their homes, property

BY DANNY E. MEEK, ESQ.

Ten years ago, Hurricane Andrew blasted the coast of Southeast Florida with the force of a Level Five hurricane, only one of three of that magnitude to hit the United States during the twentieth century. Residents of Homestead took the brunt of Andrew, which had sustained winds in excess of 145 miles an hour. Their homes were destroyed and their lives were devastated.

They fought back and they rebuilt.

Now, those same residents are once again threatened with the potential loss of their homes, and they are fighting back once more. Only this time their enemy is not nature: It is their own government.

On August 25, hundreds of vocal South Florida residents gathered to express their anger, disappointment, and distrust of government officials at C.B. Smith Park in Pembroke Pines. The event, part of "The Sawgrass Rebellion" sweeping Florida, was sponsored by The 15,000 Coalition, Inc., the Everglades Protection Society, the Dade County Farm Bureau, and the 8.5 Square Mile Area Legal Defense Fund.

This regional event was a prelude to a property rights rally in Naples, Florida on October 17 and 18 and in Homestead on October 19. Thousands journeyed to Florida from all across the country to take part in The Sawgrass Rebellion, which now boasts participation by more than 700 groups. The movement reflects growing opposition to the unwarranted taking of private property by local, state, and federal government agencies. The Sawgrass Rebellion is an umbrella organization founded to protect the property rights of South Florida residents through legislation, litigation, and public education.

Alamogordo, New Mexico's Paragon Foundation sent Jay Walley to the August 25 event in Homestead. Walley introduced leaders and representatives of various local groups involved in the Rebellion to an enthusiastic crowd. Parents came with children and grandparents. Picnic lunches were spread out on blankets as families prepared to spend the afternoon learning and listening. Local area activist and well-known writer Alice Pena, Jan Michael Jacobson of the Everglades Institute, and Frank Denninger of the Everglades Protection Society joined other speakers, as Suzette de Armas provided Spanish and English translations.

> **"I have seen farmers lose their land to flooding and drought and financial devastation. But I will not stand by and see anyone lose their land due to some bureaucrat."**
> **Dave Friedrichs**
> **Dade County Farm Bureau**

Gerardo C. Morales, president of The 15,000 Coalition, told the crowd he and his family were reliving the horrors of 40 years ago. "We lost our property then to Castro and the Cuban government," said the Golden Gate Estates landowner. "I can understand how this might happen in a communist country, but not here, not in the United States."

When Dave Friedrichs of the Dade County Farm Bureau addressed the landowners, he said he was present at the rally to show everyone The Sawgrass Rebellion was alive and kicking. He said the battle must be for all farmers, ranchers, landowners, and recreational sportsmen. "I have seen farmers lose their land to flooding and drought and financial devastation," said Friedrichs. "But I will not stand by and see anyone lose their land due to some bureaucrat." When he finished his message, Friedrichs left the stage and shook hands with each person in the crowd to solidify his pledge to each landowner that he would fight to the end of the battle with them.

G.B. Oliver, executive director of Paragon, flew in from New Mexico the night before to take part in the rally and explain his organization's mission. "Some 40 years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers took approximately 92,000 acres of ranch land from my grandfather," shouted Oliver. "I am here to fight the battle with you, to see that we stop the Corps from doing the same thing to the good people of Florida."

Pena said the meeting was a "baby step" in a long fight that would be revisited at the October rallies.

"We have an uphill battle, but we are going to win this fight," said Pena. "We must win this fight if we are going to keep our homes and our land. We need the support of landowners everywhere. We need thousands to make the journey to Naples and Homestead."

Danny E. Meek is an attorney with Hollingsworth, Meek, Miller and Minglin in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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Land-use regulation makes housing less affordable, Harvard study finds

BY RANDAL O'TOOLE

A March 2002 study published by the Harvard Institute of Economic Research at Harvard University demonstrates the effects of zoning and other regulation on housing affordability. "The Impact of Zoning on Housing Affordability," by Edward Glaeser and Joseph Gyourko, uses census data to compare the effects of zoning on housing prices in 26 U.S. cities.

Glaeser and Gyourko, who are with the Wharton Business School of the University of Pennsylvania, used data from the Census Bureau's American Housing Survey to estimate the value of a quarter-acre of land in two different ways. First, they compared the sales prices of homes on quarter-acre lots with the prices of similar homes on half-acre lots. This represented the value of the extra quarter-acre.

Second, they subtracted the cost of constructing a home from the sales prices of homes on quarter-acre lots. This represented the value of a buildable quarter-acre.

Put another way, the first value is the amount people are willing to pay for an extra quarter-acre of land in their yard. The second value is the amount it costs to own a quarter-acre of land on which you can build a house.

Without zoning and land-use regulation, the two values would be nearly identical. If someone had a house on a half-acre, and the value of developing the extra quarter-acre grew to be more than it was worth to the owner as a part of their yard, they would subdivide and develop it.

However, zoning and regulation can increase the cost of such subdivisions, or prevent them from taking place at all. In this case, the second valuation will be more than the first, and the difference represents an "implicit tax on new construction."

In some cities, the difference between these two values is small. In Kansas City, the first value is about $18,000, while the second is about $21,000. This suggests it costs only about $3,000 to get a permit to subdivide your half-acre and build in Kansas City. The difference was also less than $30,000 in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Houston, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis.

In many other cities, however, the difference is large. In San Francisco, having an additional quarter-acre in your yard is worth $85,000, but a buildable quarter-acre lot is worth nearly $700,000. The value of buildability on a quarter-acre lot is more than $200,000 in Anaheim, Los Angeles, New York City, San Diego, and Seattle. In these areas, only a small percentage of the value of the lot comes from an intrinsically high land price; the rest is due to restrictions on construction.

Unfortunately, Portland (the nation's model for smart growth) and Las Vegas (the nation's fastest-growing yet still affordable urban area) were not among the cities studied by the researchers.

Glaeser and Gyourko checked to see if other factors, such as densities, incomes, and climate, could account for these differences in values. But density and income had little effect on the analysis, while warm winters did not raise the value of land by very much.

In the October issue of *Environment & Climate News*, I suggested someone should develop an index of land-use regulation. (See "Land Use Regulation Makes Housing Less Affordable.") Glaeser and Gyourko relied on a 1989 "Wharton Land-Use Control Survey" to develop such an index for 45 urban areas.

The index was the length of time required to get a permit to rezone an area of land for a subdivision of less than 50 homes. An index of 1 equaled less than three months, 2 = 4-6 months, 3 = 7-12 months, 4 = 13-24 months, and 5 = more than 24 months.

Even after controlling for regional growth and median incomes, they found a strong correlation between this index and the share of homes in an area selling for more than 140 percent of the construction cost of those homes. Increasing the index by 1—going from 1 to 2, 2 to 3, etc.—increased the share of high-cost homes by 15 percent.

The researchers admit zoning may have some benefits. But if affordable housing is the goal, they say, zoning reform is the place to start. "Building small numbers of subsidized housing units is likely to have a trivial impact on average housing prices," they say. "However, reducing the implied zoning tax on new construction could well have a massive impact on housing prices."

Randal O'Toole (rot@ti.org) *is senior economist with the Thoreau Institute* (www.ti.org) *and author of the recent book,* The Vanishing Automobile and Other Urban Myths.

Implicit Zoning Tax on a Quarter-Acre Lot

City	Zoning Tax
Anaheim	$385,942
Atlanta	38,115
Baltimore	-8,494
Boston	137,323
Chicago	149,955
Cincinnati	24,067
Cleveland	42,362
Dallas	56,737
Detroit	50,639
Houston	29,948
Kansas City	2,940
Los Angeles	303,178
Miami	116,414
Milwaukee	22,760
Minneapolis	92,129
New York City	334,432
Newark	191,664
Philadelphia	26,463
Phoenix	54,450
Pittsburgh	14,919
Riverside	68,825
San Diego	270,399
San Francisco	608,533
Seattle	200,703
St. Louis	18,186
Tampa	59,133

Calculated by Randal O'Toole from Glaeser and Gyourko, Table Four, by taking the difference between the "imputed land cost from means data" and the "hedonic price of land log-log specification." The prices in Table Four are in dollars per square foot; for this Table O'Toole multiplied them by 10,890 square feet (a quarter-acre).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW "The Impact of Zoning on Housing Affordability," by Edward Glaeser and Joseph Gyourko, is available in Adobe Acrobat's PDF format at **http://post.economics.harvard.edu/hier/2002papers/HIER1948.pdf**.

Housing affordability, congestion, and open space are just three of the issues raised in the Thoreau Institute's slide show, "The Costs of Smart Growth." For more information, see **http://www.ti.org/vacd.html**.

EARTH TRACK

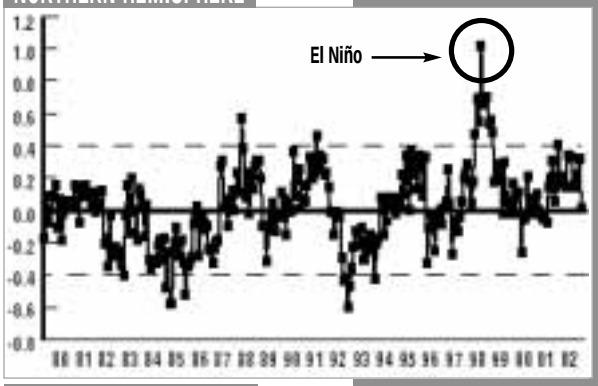
AUGUST 2002

Each month, Earth Track updates the global averaged satellite measurements of the Earth's temperature. These numbers are important because they are real—not projections, forecasts, or guesses.

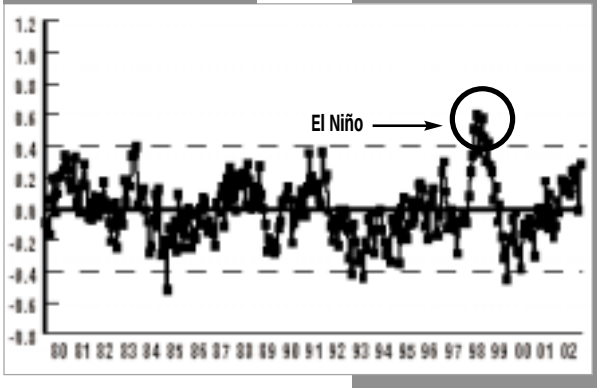
Global satellite measurements are made from a series of orbiting platforms that sense the average temperature in various atmospheric layers. Here, we present the lowest level, which climate models say should be warming. The satellite measurements are considered accurate to within 0.01°C.

The global average temperature for August, shown on page 1, was 0.15°C above normal. The Southern Hemisphere's temperature departure, shown below, was 0.29°C above normal; the Northern Hemisphere's, below right, was 0.02°C above normal.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE



SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE



The data used to create these graphs can be found on the Internet at http://vortex.nsstc.uah.edu/data/msu/t2lt/tlgtlhmam_5.0.

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Bush backs greenhouse gas trading scheme

BY MARLO LEWIS JR.

On February 14, 2002 President George W. Bush directed various agencies to transform the Department of Energy's Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases program into a program awarding "transferable credits" for "voluntary" emission reductions. The bureaucracy is now moving swiftly to implement Bush's directive.

Growing the greenhouse lobby

The President's plan may seem like a technical change in a minor program. In reality—and apparently unbeknownst to Bush—transferable credits would fundamentally change the politics of U.S. energy policy. Transferable credits will grow the greenhouse lobby: the coalition of politicians, advocacy groups, and corporations supporting political controls on energy use.

Bush's advisors ought to know this, because the Clinton-Gore administration flogged the idea for years as part its global warming policy.

Originally known as "credit for early action," transferable credits began as a strategy to win corporate and congressional support for Kyoto-style regulation. The pro-Kyoto activist group Environmental Defense was the strategy's chief architect. Clinton officially endorsed the proposal in October 1997. The Pew Center on Global Climate Change, headed by former Clinton-Gore Kyoto negotiator Eileen Claussen, marketed the plan to corporate America. Kyoto-leaning Senators John Chafee (R-Rhode Island) and Joe Lieberman (D-Connecticut) introduced early credit legislation in the 105th and 106th Congresses.

The basic idea was simple: Award credits to companies that begin to comply with Kyoto before it is even ratified, and allow those companies to sell or use the credits to offset future regulatory obligations. In effect, participating companies acquire Kyoto stock that bears dividends if—but only if—Kyoto or similar regulation is ratified or enacted. Credit-holders thus acquire cash incentives to support Kyoto, or lobby for its domestic equivalent.

Although touted as "voluntary" and "win-win" (good for business, good for the environment), transferable credits create a coercive system in which one company's gain is another's loss.

Tradable credits only have value in relation to an emissions reduction target or "cap." If the cap is not to be broken, then every credit awarded for "voluntary" reductions in the "early action" period must be subtracted from the total available in the mandatory period. Thus, for every company that gains a credit in the early action period, there must be another that loses a credit in the compliance period. Consequently, companies that do not "volunteer" will be penalized— forced in the mandatory period to make deeper reductions than the cap itself would require, or to purchase additional credits from early reducers.

The real mischief goes deeper. Since the scheme penalizes non-participants, many businesses will "volunteer" just to avoid getting stuck in the shallow end of the credit pool later on. The intended political result is a critical mass of companies holding carbon coupons—assets that mature only under Kyoto or comparable regulation.

No rationale for credits program

The Bush administration's rationale for transferable credits is the same as that offered in previous years by Environmental Defense, Clinton-Gore, and Chafee-Lieberman. Without a crediting program, we are told, early reducers will be "punished" under Kyoto—forced to cut emissions from already-lowered emission baselines. Fear of having to do double duty under a future climate policy discourages firms from reducing emissions today. Credits will protect companies' baselines, removing the "disincentive" to voluntary reductions.

This tirelessly repeated rationale fails on three counts.

> **"Those genuinely seeking to promote voluntary action [aimed at reducing CO2 emissions] should lobby against Kyoto, not for Son-of-Kyoto crediting schemes."**

First, there has been no lack of voluntary action to reduce emissions. Reducing emissions relative to economic output is what businesses in market settings do. Emissions are a reflection of material and energy inputs, and competition spurs firms to do more with less. The carbon intensity of the U.S. economy (emissions per dollar of GDP) fell by 15 percent in the 1990s and nearly 50 percent since 1970.

Second, if there is a disincentive to voluntary action, it is created by the presence of Kyoto and other CO2-control proposals, not by the absence of a crediting program. Kyoto and its ilk are what threaten to punish firms that have invested the most in energy efficiency. Those genuinely seeking to promote voluntary action should lobby against Kyoto, not for Son-of-Kyoto crediting schemes.

Third, many of the politicians (Lieberman, Jeffords, Gore), advocacy groups (Pew Center, Environmental Defense, Natural Resources Defense Council), and companies (British Petroleum, Royal Dutch Shell, Trigen Energy) calling for transferable credits also support CO2 controls. They are in the odd position of demanding "baseline protection" from the very

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policy at the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI). "Nearly every provision creates a new government office, program, or regulation designed to raise energy prices, force down energy use, or lay the groundwork for implementing the Kyoto global warming treaty."

"As wonderful as it would be to lift the ban on ANWR, America can survive and even thrive without access to ANWR oil," observed CEI senior fellow Marlo Lewis. "It is far from clear that America could remain prosperous and strong under Kyoto or kindred energy-rationing schemes."

Regulatory rollback vs. new constraints

Both the Senate and House measures have been criticized for wasteful and excessive federal spending. Many of their provisions are clearly designed to prop up or subsidize inefficient programs and industries favored by powerful Congressmen.

The House bill, however, offsets such undesirable spending with provisions to streamline regulatory bottlenecks that penalize the creation of energy infrastructure and recovery of efficient energy sources.

> **"The Senate's energy bill is really an anti-energy bill."**
>
> MYRON EBELL
> COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

The Senate bill, to the contrary, makes large increases in new federal spending even worse with new constraints on the recovery and delivery of efficient energy sources. Most notably, the Senate bill requires privately owned utilities to more than quadruple the percentage of electricity generated from inefficient renewable sources and imposes numerous new constraints on energy sources that generate carbon dioxide.

Particularly troubling for the U.S. economy are the proposed constraints on carbon dioxide emissions. Said CEI's Lewis, "Climate change is the leading pretext for anti-energy policies—rationing schemes like the Kyoto Protocol, which would restrict America's access to the hydrocarbon fuels that supply 70 percent of our electricity and 84 percent of all our energy needs."

"Whether Americans will continue to enjoy abundant supplies of affordable energy in coming decades depends on negotiations in a House-Senate conference committee that will likely climax in the next fortnight," said Ebell. "It all hinges on whether White House officials are so eager to get an energy bill—any energy bill—that they will cave in to the demands of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, and Democratic Presidential hopefuls Sens. John Kerry of Massachusetts and Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut."

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policies they promote. These worthies might as well plead, "We have met the enemy, and it is us!" All Lieberman, Environmental Defense, and BP need do to ensure voluntary reductions are not penalized is renounce their support for the Kyoto Protocol.

Finally, Bush's transferable credit plan will not only build up the greenhouse lobby, it will also demoralize the friends of energy abundance. After all, why would the President offer credits to protect companies' baselines unless he believes Kyoto or something like it is the wave of the future? Few corporations will resolutely oppose energy rationing if they sense defeatism in the White House.

Confronted with the case against transferable credits, Bush administration officials offer the following apologia. The President, as an alternative to Kyoto, has proposed to reduce U.S. carbon intensity by 18 percent over the next 10 years—4.5 percentage points more, and 30 percent faster, than the reduction otherwise projected to occur. Only a crediting program can motivate companies to make the extra effort required to reach that goal.

This is all wrong. First, the proposed 18 percent carbon intensity reduction provides no alternative to Kyoto if, as in the President's policy, it is coupled with a crediting plan that fosters pro-Kyoto lobbying.

Second, rather than hail Bush's emphasis on carbon intensity as a bold new approach, environmental lobbying groups uniformly condemn it as an excuse for "inaction." The administration has yet to learn that when government creates "voluntary" climate programs, it does not assuage demands for regulation. Rather, it legitimizes the alarmism fueling such demands.

Third, and most importantly, there is a better way to decrease carbon intensity: Reduce the tax code's bias against capital investment.

> **"The administration has yet to learn that when government creates 'voluntary' climate programs, it does not assuage demands for regulation. Rather, it legitimizes the alarmism fueling such demands."**

Reform the tax code

Business investment in new capital assets like plant, buildings, and equipment boosts worker productivity and thus raises real wages. Productivity gains also enable firms to decrease material and energy inputs—and their associated emissions—per unit of output. In addition, newer equipment tends to be cleaner and more energy-efficient than older equipment.

If Bush feels he must "do something" about global warming, then he ought to champion a true "no regrets" policy: one that reduces emissions intensity by lowering tax barriers to new investment. Perhaps no single reform would deliver more environmental bang for the buck than ending the tax code's use of depreciation rather than expensing to calculate a firm's taxable income.

The tax code does not allow firms to "expense," or deduct from current-year revenues, the full cost of capital investment. Rather, it forces firms to write off capital costs by dribs and drabs, over multi-year periods, based on more-or-less arbitrary depreciation schedules—guesstimates of how long it takes particular types of assets to wear out or lose value. By allowing firms to deduct only a small fraction of capital costs in the first year, depreciation inflates a firm's taxable income when it hurts most: when the firm actually incurs major expenses for new assets. Replacing depreciation with expensing would eliminate this barrier to economically efficient capital turnover.

A recent study commissioned by the American Council for Capital Formation shows the United States lags behind many of its trade partners in capital cost recovery allowances for investment in electric power plants, other energy assets, and pollution control technology.

"For example," explains ACCF economist Margot Thorning, "after five years, a U.S. company recovers only 29 percent of its investment in a combined heat and power generation facility compared to 51 percent in Germany, 53 percent in Japan, 100 percent in the Netherlands, and 105 percent in China."

Expensing as a means to a greener economy ought to be a no-brainer for Bush. In March, he signed into a law a "stimulus package" that provides partial (30 percent) expensing for capital investment, on a temporary (three year) basis. But if temporary partial expensing is good, then why not go all the way and propose full permanent expensing?

One caveat is in order, however. Eligibility for expensing should be as broad and non-discriminatory as possible, not restricted to investment in politically correct assets like wind turbines, solar panels, and biomass burners. The tax code is already riddled with too many special preferences. An expensing policy that merely empowered Kyoto partisans to pick winners and losers would be only slightly less toxic than transferable credits.

In March 2001, Bush honored his campaign pledge to oppose Kyoto by recanting an ill-considered campaign proposal to regulate CO2 from power plants. As the energy battle in Washington builds to climax, the President again needs to act with courage and consistency. Expensing is pro-growth. Transferable credits are anti-growth. If Bush implements transferable credits and builds the greenhouse lobby, he may well go down in history as "the Kyoto President."

Marlo Lewis is a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Voluntary Actions by the Oil and Gas Industry to Address Climate Change

An Industry Best Practices Conference Co-Sponsored by API and OGP

November 20-21, 2002 • InterContinental Hotel • Houston, Texas, USA

The American Petroleum Institute and the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) are sponsoring a conference to address domestic and international expectations regarding voluntary actions by the oil and natural gas industry. Conference presentations will emphasize the development of new technologies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while important climate research continues.

Following the success of the first conference held in December 1999, this 2nd Voluntary Actions Conference showcases the industry's best practices to improve energy efficiency and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provides an opportunity to gauge the progress of efforts made by the oil and gas industry thus far, and highlights future plans to reduce carbon dioxide and methane emissions.

American Petroleum Institute

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Private industry, government officials, academics, and non-government organizations will offer their ideas and plans, and share their best practices and experiences in a series of useful presentations including:

- Domestic and International Expectations Regarding Voluntary Actions by the Oil and Gas Industry
- Operational Processing Techniques
- Carbon Capture and Sequestration
- Research and Development
- Automotive Partnerships
- Alternative Fuels
- Emissions Estimating and Reporting
- Emissions Trading

Program and registration information will be available on the API web site at www.api.org/events.
Or contact Madeleine Sellouk at selloukm@api.org, phone 202.682.8332.

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Global warming: A status report

BY FRED SINGER

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-9) convenes in New Delhi in November 2002 to discuss implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

Where do things stand? The U.S. and Australia have opted out. Canada is split; its federal government plans to submit Kyoto for ratification but there is strong opposition. Russia will ratify—after having extracted all the economic concessions it can from Europe. Japan is in but there will be no enforcement. In Europe and everywhere else, CO2 emissions are rising and proposed policy steps (ecotaxes and enforced targets of uneconomic renewables) are not likely to work.

Meanwhile, in India, business proceeds as usual. Coal contributes 72 percent of electric power generation (vs. 52 percent in the U.S.). Indian coal's poor quality, with 5 to 50 percent ash and inadequate pollution control, creates local health hazards from toxic trace elements (As, Cd, Cr, Ni, Co, Cu, and Sb) and high levels of radioactivity. Moreover, the coal's poor quality creates regional pollution that contributes to the Asian Brown Cloud, and may even cause climate disturbances.

A "safe" level of global warming?

In a recent *Science* article supporting the Kyoto Protocol, O'Neill and Oppenheimer discuss the ultimate objective for climate policy. They propose that a temperature rise of 1-2˚C would constitute a "safe" level of global warming by estimating it would be tolerable to corals and the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS). There are several ways to respond.

First, their figure is a welcome reassurance that warming from increased greenhouse gases (GHG) levels will unlikely ever pose a problem. Since the existing increase in GH forcing has not produced a measurable temperature rise of the atmosphere, contrary to model expectations, it is highly unlikely that a future rise will exceed 1˚C under any reasonable projection of population and fossil-fuel use.

Second, we know that natural temperature increases in recent millennia have been greater than 2˚C—without harmful consequences. In the case of coral reefs, analyses of ocean bottom sediments from the tropical North Atlantic show extremely rapid temperature increases (within decades) of up to 3˚C within the past 3,000 years. Even higher values occurred during the Holocene Climate Optimum between 5,000 and 8,000 years ago. For the WAIS, geological data show a more or less steady regression of the grounding line since the last glacial maximum of about 18,000 BC. It seems little affected by temperature fluctuations shorter than millennial. With melting continuing at the same rate, the ice sheet will disappear in about 5,000 years, which is near the upper limit proposed by O'Neill and Oppenheimer.

Finally, the ultimate objective for climate policy is spelled out in Article 2 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC): "to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." The treaty does not specify this level, or indeed whether it should be greater or lower than the present one. Note that Article 2 expresses concern about the *climate* system rather than ecological systems, economic activity, or human health.

I would argue that the drafters of the FCCC were chiefly concerned that a higher level of GHG might cause climate instabilities. This difficult scientific question has not been adequately addressed in IPCC reports. Geological evidence shows greater climate stability during the warmer Holocene than during the last glaciation. Further, climate variability was generally greater during the Little Ice Age than during recent warmer periods. While one cannot conclude that a future warming of the climate will increase stability further, it does seem more probable.

President George W. Bush stated on June 11, 2001 that the Kyoto emission targets "were arbitrary and not based on science" since "no one can say with any certainty what constitutes a dangerous level." Indeed, the IPCC has never responded to the 1997 request for guidance on this issue by the chairman of the Kyoto negotiations.

Letter to the Editor of Science *submitted, with references, on July 2, 2002 but not accepted for publication.*

S. Fred Singer, professor emeritus of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia and president of the Science and Environmental Policy Project, shares his thoughts on environment and climate news stories in "The Week that Was," a regular column available on the Web at www.sepp.org.

What is the Kyoto Protocol?

The Kyoto Protocol on global warming is an amendment to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), more popularly known as the Rio Treaty.

Whereas the Rio Treaty set voluntary goals for reducing greenhouse gases, the Protocol requires participating developed countries to reduce their greenhouse emissions by 5.2 percent of 1990 levels by 2012. The United States withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol last year, but remains a party to the 1992 Rio Treaty.

The Protocol goes into effect when no fewer than 55 parties to the UNFCCC accounting for at least 55 percent of the total carbon dioxide emissions for 1990 have ratified, accepted, approved, or acceded to the Protocol.

As of September 27, 2002 95 countries accounting for a total of 37.1 percent of global man-made carbon dioxide emissions had ratified the Protocol. Russia (with 17 percent of global emissions) and Canada (with 3 percent) had pledged to ratify the Protocol at the recently concluded World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, but did not.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW see The Heartland Institute's three succinct factsheets, "The Science of Global Warming," "The Politics of the Kyoto Protocol," and "The Cost of the Kyoto Protocol." Search *PolicyBot* at **www.heartland.org** for the publication titled *Talking Points on Global Warming and the Kyoto Protocol*.

DEBUNKING DRIVING MYTHS

Federal and state governments have spent billions perpetuating public policies supposedly intended to make highways safer, the air cleaner, and congestion less frequent. The truth is, many of these policies benefit only the courts, police departments, and government bureaucracies, all at the expense of American motorists. Here are some pearls of wisdom you've heard for decades...

MYTH #1
"Speed Kills!"

FACT: "Speed" cannot be correlated to highway safety. Our safest highways are "high speed" highways. The drivers least likely to be involved in traffic accidents travel above the average speed of traffic. Speed, as a principal causative factor, constitutes only 2 to 4 percent of all traffic accidents. The safest major highway system in the world is the German Autobahn, of which two-thirds *does not* have a speed limit.

MYTH #2
"Fifty percent of all highway fatalities are caused by drunk drivers!"

FACT: Only 7 percent of ***ALL*** traffic accidents involve a driver being cited for drunk driving. The government deceives the public by claiming a drunk driver *caused* the accident if *any* party to the fatal accident had any measurable alcohol in their blood (including pedestrians, bicyclists, and *faultless* motorists).

MYTH #3
"Vehicle inspections make the highways safer and the air cleaner."

FACT: Vehicle equipment failures cause less than 2 percent of all accidents in states with, and without, *mandatory safety inspection systems*. And, there has been minimal effort to document the effect of *mandated vehicle emissions inspections*. The studies that have been done indicate there is no improvement in air quality attributed to mandated vehicle inspection programs.

If you would like to learn the truth about these subjects and others, please check out our Web site at www.motorists.org. For membership information, call 1-800-882-2785.

The National Motorists Association

Twenty years representing and protecting drivers rights.

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Joint Letter on the Energy Policy Act of 2002

The Honorable Billy Tauzin
Chairman
Conference Committee on the Energy Policy Act of 2002
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2002

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAUZIN:

We strongly support your efforts, as Chairman of the Conference Committee on the Energy Policy Act of 2002, to ensure the bill does not become a vehicle for anti-energy policies that penalize consumers, seniors, taxpayers and the economy.

Several provisions in the Senate version would make U.S. energy supplies less abundant, less affordable, and less reliable. Some would waste tax dollars for the benefit of special interests. Some would establish the Kyoto agenda of climate alarmism and energy rationing as a central organizing principle of U.S. economic policy.

Here is a short list of what we consider the most misguided provisions of the Senate bill.

Title II, section 264, Renewable Portfolio Standard. This section would require utilities to generate 10 percent of their electricity from so-called renewable sources (wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, but not hydropower) by 2020. Despite tens of billions of dollars in taxpayer and ratepayer subsidies over almost three decades, renewable energy technologies supply only 2.21 percent of total U.S. electric power. Wind provides just 0.13 percent of U.S. electricity, while solar provides only 0.02 percent. The marketplace has spoken. Compelling power producers to use uneconomical energy sources will unavoidably make electricity more expensive for consumers. Congress should pull the plug on this failed experiment, not entrench and expand it.

Title X—National Climate Change Policy. The opening "Sense of Congress on Climate Change" section of this title is unvarnished alarmism, replete with scary predictions of rapid sea-level rise, insect-borne disease epidemics, and temperature increases up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Such predictions are not based on climate science, but on discredited computer models that cannot even "predict" the past century's temperature record. The section urges the United States to participate in the Kyoto treaty process, lauds the Kyoto policy mechanisms, and heavy-handedly implies that current U.S. international efforts fall short of "responsible action." If this provision becomes law, it will empower all those who seek, by legislation, regulation, and litigation, to constrain and impoverish America's energy future. Title X also requires the White House to develop a strategy for "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations." Under current and foreseeable technology options, the only way to accomplish this goal is through draconian cutbacks in energy use.

Title XI—National Greenhouse Gas Database. The purpose of this title could not be clearer: establish the monitoring and enforcement infrastructure for a future, Kyoto-inspired greenhouse gas regulatory regime. The database starts out "voluntary" but turns mandatory after five years if companies representing 60 percent of estimated total greenhouse gas emissions decline to "volunteer." Although the mandatory phase at first will apply only to companies that emit more than 10,000 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent, one need not be a weatherman to know which way this wind will blow. The threshold will be lowered repeatedly, to control an ever-wider segment of the economy, just as the income tax first applied only to wealthy individuals and gradually expanded into a universal tax.

Title XIII—Climate Change Science and Technology. This title directs the Commerce Department within two years to begin producing national, regional, state, and local vulnerability assessments. This short-term response to a potential long-term problem would be poor policy under any circumstances, but it is plainly silly given the inability of current modeling to provide plausible forecasts of regional, state, or local impacts of climate change. The Commerce Department is also directed to develop preparedness recommendations, including recommendations for federal acquisition and zoning. This language is straight out of the Gore campaign proposal.

Although many other provisions in the Senate version ill serve taxpayers, consumers, and those who, like many seniors, must pay for energy costs out of fixed incomes, the four provisions discussed above should be deal breakers. Congress cannot enact a 10 percent renewable portfolio standard, a pro-Kyoto credo on climate change, a pre-Kyoto monitoring and enforcement institutional framework, and the Gore climate action plan without committing the United States to an anti-energy policy.

We are heartened that President Bush joins you in opposing those provisions. Again, we applaud your efforts to protect the American people from an anti-growth, anti-consumer agenda masquerading as energy policy.

SINCERELY,

MARY M. MARTIN
The Seniors Coalition

MALCOLM WALLOP
Frontiers of Freedom

PAUL BECKNER
Citizens for a Sound Economy

JOHN BERTHOUD
National Taxpayers Union

GROVER NORQUIST
Americans for Tax Reform

ALEX ST. JAMES
African American Republican Leadership Council

FRED L. SMITH, JR.
Competitive Enterprise Institute

TOM DEWEESE
American Policy Center

FRANCES B. SMITH
Consumer Alert*

cc: Members of the Conference Committee

* Affiliation noted for identification purposes only

Visit www.cei.org for more information
on the Energy Policy Act of 2002

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Joint Letter on ANWR Drilling

The Honorable Billy Tauzin
Chairman
Conference Committee on the Energy Policy Act of 2002
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2002

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAUZIN:

We write to express our support for the provision in the House version of H. R. 4, the Energy Policy Act of 2002, to allow oil and gas exploration in 2000 acres of the coastal plain of the 19-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We think that the possibility that oil supplies from the Persian Gulf states could be disrupted because of U.S. military intervention in Iraq makes the case for developing new domestic petroleum supplies urgent and compelling, although we recognize that it will take several years for production to begin in ANWR. The Congress should exercise more foresight in this regard than President Clinton did in 1995 when he vetoed similar legislation to open the coastal plain to exploration.

The USGS estimates that the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain may contain between 5.7 and 16 billion barrels of recoverable crude oil, with a mean estimate of 10.4 billion barrels, plus similarly large quantities of natural gas. Although environmental pressure groups claim that this is an insignificant amount of energy compared to America's total energy consumption, the USGS upper estimate is equivalent to approximately thirty years of oil imports from Saudi Arabia, our largest foreign supplier. Even the lower USGS estimate dwarfs expected total U. S. production from all non-hydro renewable sources of energy.

Preservationist claims that oil production in ANWR will destroy pristine wilderness, threaten the caribou herd, and cause widespread environmental degradation are either false or grossly exaggerated. The coastal plain is not wilderness. It contains an Inupiat Eskimo village and the remains of several military installations. The pristine wilderness in ANWR lies far to the south and is protected by congressionally-designated Wilderness Areas. The caribou herd at Prudhoe Bay has flourished and grown during the period of oil production there. There has not been any major environmental degradation at Prudhoe Bay, despite predictions in the 1970s to the contrary, and the exploration and production technology that will be used in ANWR is much safer, cleaner, and more advanced than that used at Prudhoe Bay.

The rights of the Inupiat who live on the coastal plain should not be disregarded. They own land within ANWR and would share in the royalties from oil and gas production. If the Congress cannot agree on the provision in the House bill, simple justice demands that the Inupiat be allowed to initiate exploration on their own lands.

We wish you complete success in negotiating a conference report that will allow and encourage America's energy industries to continue to provide abundant and affordable energy to American consumers. We believe that the ANWR provision is a crucial part of that effort. Thank you for considering our views.

SINCERELY,

MYRON EBELL
Competitive Enterprise Institute

GROVER NORQUIST
Americans for Tax Reform

JOHN BERTHOUD
National Taxpayers Union

PAUL BECKNER
Citizens for a Sound Economy

JAMES L. MARTIN
60 Plus Association

GEORGE SEMAN
Energy Stewardship Alliance

LEROY WATSON
National Grange

MALCOLM WALLOP
Frontiers of Freedom

CHARLES S. CUSHMAN
American Land Rights Association

CRAIG RUCKER
Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow

F. PATRICIA CALLAHAN
American Association of Small Property Owners

ALEX ST. JAMES
African American Republican Leadership Council

RICHARD LESSNER
American Renewal

STEVEN C. BORRELL
Alaska Miners Association

ALAN CARUBA
National Anxiety Center

Visit www.cei.org for more information on ANWR drilling

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SUMMIT continued from page 1

including wind, solar, and biomass.

But when the summit concluded on September 4, the renewables mandate, vigorously opposed by the U.S., had been dropped altogether. Adding insult to injury, delegates from poorer countries rose up against the Green lobby and embraced "efficient, affordable, and cost-effective energy technologies, including fossil fuel technologies."

Green lobbying groups lost little time in condemning a summit that had largely rejected their agenda. The World Wildlife Fund dubbed the conference the "World Summit of Shameful Deals." In the words of the Energy & Climate Caucus-CSD/WSSD, a New York-based non-government organization (NGO), the summit was "an outright disaster."

So strong was the anger of the global Greens assembled in Johannesburg that they interrupted Secretary of State Colin Powell's brief address on the final day of the summit with shouts of "Bush must go." Several protesters became so disruptive they had to be removed from the hall where Powell spoke.

Preparing for a successful summit

The surprising outcome of the summit was largely the work of U.S. negotiators who, long before the conference got underway on August 26, had been working behind the scenes to convince developing countries their future lies not in the rejection of modern technology, as the global environmental movement demands, but in its application to the daunting problems prevailing in poverty-stricken areas of the world.

This was most evident in the issue that dominated the WSSD: water. While Green activists railed against the fossil fuels they claim cause global warming, the summit's chief focus was on ways to provide clean water to people living in poor countries.

"[D]elegates from poorer countries ... embraced 'efficient, affordable, and cost-effective energy technologies, including fossil fuel technologies.'"

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW on the importance of safe drinking water, see the November 2000 issue of *Environment & Climate News*, which features an interview with Bill Ashe of Lifewater International. Find all back issues of *ECN* on the Web at **www.heartland.org**.

Lack of access to safe drinking water is one of the major causes of disease and premature death in sub-Saharan Africa and other underdeveloped parts of the world. Half the world's diseases are transmitted by or through water. In developing countries, a child dies every eight seconds from a waterborne disease.

Water purification technologies, which rely primarily on chlorination, have been available in wealthier countries for nearly a century. Since chlorination was introduced in the U.S., for example, such diseases as cholera, typhoid, and hepatitis A have been virtually eliminated. By contrast, even under the best of circumstances, drinking water disinfection in developing countries is sporadic or nonexistent. At Johannesburg, the U.S. delegation took the lead in underscoring the importance of water purification in developing countries.

"New vision of sustainable development"

Washington's emphasis on improving the quality of water around the world is part of what Powell referred to as the "new vision of sustainable development." An essential element of that new vision, Powell noted, is that developing nations "must be governed wisely." The U.S. message was clear: Simply transferring funds to corrupt and inept governments in the Third World, in the hope those funds will somehow aid the impoverished masses, is no longer acceptable.

Powell specifically cited Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe as an example of what the U.S. will no longer tolerate. In the name of "land reform," Mugabe has driven thousands of white farmers off their land without compensation, turning the land over to his own relatives and political cronies. All of this is taking place at a time when Zimbabwe is suffering a severe food shortage. Powell noted that in Zimbabwe, "the lack of respect for human rights and the rule of law has brought millions of people to the brink of famine."

Such talk was far removed from the global governance the Green movement had hoped to impose on developed and developing countries alike. That agenda has at its core the rejection of modern technology, despite all the public health benefits technology has brought to people fortunate enough to live in countries where it is available.

Explains University of Houston economist Thomas E. DeGregori in a book forthcoming from the Cato Institute: "We don't help the disadvantaged by opposing the technology that has helped us all."

The demonization of pesticides, fossil fuels, chlorine chemicals, plastics, and agricultural biotechnology by well-fed Greens in industrialized countries recalls the words of the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi:

"How can we speak to those who live in villages and slums about keeping the oceans, the rivers, and the air clean when their own lives are contaminated at the source? The environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty. Nor can poverty be eradicated without the use of science and technology."

Bonner R. Cohen is a senior fellow at the Lexington Institute in Arlington, Virginia. He recently returned from Johannesburg, South Africa.

Preserving the American Dream

A Conference for Supporters of Mobility and Homeownership • Washington, DC • February 23-25, 2003

It is time to start a new movement aimed at preserving the American Dream of mobility and homeownership. This conference will bring together dozens of urban experts with scores of professionals and activists working to protect freedom, mobility, and livability in their home cities and regions.

The conference will help you effectively oppose rail transit boondoggles, high-density urban zoning, restrictions on rural property rights, and other so-called "smart-growth" policies. It may also lead to the creation of an American Dream Coalition that will promote free-market solutions to urban problems.

Business leaders, rural landowners, and urban residents concerned about traffic congestion, high-density zoning, and restrictions on property rights should all attend this conference. Speakers will include Wendell Cox (public-purpose.com), Robert Nelson (University of Maryland), Steve Hayward (American Enterprise Institute), Randal O'Toole (Thoreau Institute), Sam Staley (Buckeye Institute), and many more.

Preserving the American Dream is co-sponsored by the Heartland Institute, Heritage Foundation, Thoreau Institute, and several other organizations. The conference will take place at the Wyndham City Center Hotel in Washington, DC. Register soon, as space is limited. For more information, see www.ti.org/amdream.html.

Registration Form

❑ Yes! Sign me up to attend *Preserving the American Dream*. My registration fee of $199 ($149 student/low-income) is ❑ enclosed ❑ will be paid through PayPal (send payment to ti@ti.org).

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Make check payable to The Thoreau Institute and mail to:
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'Natural' holiday foods are not carcinogen-free

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH

The holiday season is a good time to remember that the American food supply is by far the best in the world—and the best it has been in the history of this country. It is the best not only in terms of its abundance and variety, but also in terms of its safety.

Our diet—like diets around the world—is made up of water, macronutrients (carbohydrates, proteins, and fats), micronutrients (vitamins and minerals), and tens of thousands of other naturally occurring chemicals. A few of these latter chemicals either have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory rodents in research studies or have been shown to be "mutagens" when tested with bacteria. Mutagens, because they can damage DNA—genetic material—are often thought of as "possible animal carcinogens." Mutagen tests, such as the Ames test, are often used as quick indicators to predict how likely a chemical is to cause cancer.

Back in 1958, when Congress passed legislation (the so-called Delaney amendment to the 1938 Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act) to keep "carcinogens" out of our processed food supply, it was assumed carcinogens (a) were rarely found in foods and (b) were put there by humans, either purposely, through food additives, or inadvertently, in the form of pesticide residues. The Delaney amendment banned from American food any artificial substance that could be shown to cause cancer in lab animals—no matter how small the amount of the substance in a food or how high the dose given to test animals.

Some progress has been made since 1958, however: In 1996 the Food Quality Protection Act removed the scientifically untenable "zero-risk" requirement from the approval process for pesticides. This narrowed the scope of the irrationally restrictive Delaney clause.

Rodent carcinogens abound in nature

In the 40-plus years since Delaney was passed, it has become clear that many naturally occurring chemicals—chemicals that are plentiful in our food supply—cause cancer in rodents when fed in high doses over a lifetime. Furthermore, scientists Bruce N. Ames and Lois Swirsky Gold have analyzed human exposure to chemicals, both natural and man-made (synthetic), that have been classified as "rodent carcinogens." The researchers have concluded that when ranked on an index (the HERP Index) that compares human exposure to the dose that increases tumors in rodents, the possible cancer hazard to humans from the background of dietary intake of nature's own rodent carcinogens ranks high in comparison to the possible hazard from residues of synthetic pesticides or additives.

> **"The primary risk factor in holiday meals—other than the risk of food poisoning from the improper handling or preparation of food—is getting too much of a good thing."**

Human dietary intake of nature's pesticides is about 10,000 times higher than human intake of synthetic pesticides that are rodent carcinogens. In other words, consumers who choose to worry about eating chemicals shown to cause cancer in rodents (and ACSH does not recommend you worry about this hypothetical risk) should understand that the human diet is full of naturally occurring rodent carcinogens.

Present scientific knowledge suggests that residues of synthetic rodent carcinogens in our diet are unlikely to pose a risk of cancer in the quantities we consume on a daily, monthly, or yearly basis. The data are inadequate to allow us to evaluate human risk at low doses, and the uncertainties are enormous.

We hear much about "carcinogens" in our food. But the media use the designation "carcinogen" most frequently in conjunction with man-made rodent carcinogens—substances such as Alar (a fruit-ripening chemical), saccharin (a synthetic, noncaloric sweetener), and BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole, a synthetic antioxidant).

What ACSH demonstrates with its holiday menu is that chemicals that are rodent carcinogens, or are suspected of being such, abound in nature.

Many of these naturally occurring rodent carcinogens are natural pesticides—chemicals that plants produce to repel or kill predators. Of the approximately 10,000 such natural pesticides occurring in the diet, only about 60 have been tested in rodent experiments. These chemicals are found in a wide variety of our food plants: Brussels sprouts, cantaloupe, cauliflower, cherries, chili peppers, cocoa, garlic, grapes, kale, lentils, lettuce, and radishes—to name just a few that are not in our Holiday Menu.

Lab rat doses are not human doses

The consumption of small doses of rodent carcinogens, whether of natural or synthetic origin, is quite unlikely to pose a cancer hazard to humans. When you understand that carcinogens and mutagens are everywhere in Mother Nature's own food supply, you can see the absurdity of panicking over tiny levels of synthetic chemicals (such as pesticide residues) that are "carcinogens" when fed in large doses over a lifetime to rodents.

If you chose to believe that every rodent carcinogen was also a potential human carcinogen, and if you then chose to extrapolate directly from rodent to human, the background of naturally occurring chemicals that people consume at levels close to the rodent-carcinogenic dose would still cast doubt on the importance for human cancer of synthetic chemical residues.

Note, for example, on the Holiday Menu that the bread in the stuffing contains furfural, a rodent carcinogen. But when you take into account the difference in body weight between a human and a rodent, based on the carcinogenicity data available from the laboratory, a person would have to eat 82,600 slices of bread to consume an amount of furfural equal to the amount that increased the risk of cancer in rodents.

When looking at this example, remember the conditions of the animal studies: Doses are fed every day of the rodent's life (usually two years). To get an equivalent carcinogenic dose, a human would have to consume those 82,600 slices of bread every day for years.

Too much of a good thing

The primary risk factor in holiday meals—other than the risk of food poisoning from the improper handling or preparation of food—is getting too much of a good thing. A hungry holiday eater can easily consume 2,000-plus calories at one sitting. A consistent intake of excessive calories contributes to obesity, with its attendant higher risk of heart disease. Interestingly, excessive caloric intake has been called the "most striking" carcinogen in rodent carcinogenicity studies. Body weight is a good predictor of a rat's risk of cancer as shown in comparisons of rats on calorie-restricted diets and rats permitted to eat all they want.

In our quest to reduce our cancer risk by manipulating our diet, we should focus on dietary imbalances in what we eat, not on trace chemicals. Numerous epidemiological studies have indicated that people who consume a diet high in fruits and vegetables have a lower risk for various types of cancer. This is true in spite of the fact that natural chemicals that are also rodent carcinogens occur abundantly in many of these same fruits and vegetables. Note that the populations studied lowered their risks even though their food presumably contained synthetic pesticide residues. High fruit and vegetable consumption was still protective against cancer.

The foods on our Holiday Menu are healthful and wholesome despite the presence in them of some of Mother Nature's own chemicals that have been shown to be carcinogenic in high-dose rodent tests.

Naturally occurring mutagens and carcinogens found in foods and beverages

ACETALDEHYDE (apples, bread, coffee, tomatoes)—mutagen and potent rodent carcinogen

ACRYLAMIDE (bread, rolls)—rodent and human neurotoxin; rodent carcinogen

AFLATOXIN (nuts)—mutagen and potent rodent carcinogen; also a human carcinogen

ALLYL ISOTHIOCYANATE (arugula, broccoli, mustard)—mutagen and rodent carcinogen

ANILINE (carrots)—rodent carcinogen

BENZALDEHYDE (apples, coffee, tomatoes)—rodent carcinogen

BENZENE (butter, coffee, roast beef)—rodent carcinogen

BENZO(A)PYRENE (bread, coffee, pumpkin pie, rolls, tea)—mutagen and rodent carcinogen

BENZOFURAN (coffee)—rodent carcinogen

BENZYL ACETATE (jasmine tea)—rodent carcinogen

CAFFEIC ACID (apples, carrots, celery, cherry tomatoes, coffee, grapes, lettuce, mangos, pears, potatoes)—rodent carcinogen

CATECHOL (coffee)—rodent carcinogen

COUMARIN (cinnamon in pies)—rodent carcinogen

1,2,5,6-DIBENZ(A)ANTHRACENE (coffee)—rodent carcinogen

ESTRAGOLE (apples, basil)—rodent carcinogen

ETHYL ALCOHOL (bread, red wine, rolls)—rodent and human carcinogen

ETHYL ACRYLATE (pineapple)—rodent carcinogen

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Chemicals in Your Thanksgiving Dinner

APPETIZERS

Cream of Mushroom Soup
Hydrazines

Fresh Relish Tray

Carrots
aniline, caffeic acid

Cherry Tomatoes
benzaldehyde, caffeic acid, hydrogen peroxide, quercetin glycosides

Celery
caffeic acid, furan derivatives, psoralens

Assorted Nuts

Mixed Roasted Nuts
aflatoxin, furfural

Green Salad

Tossed Lettuce and Arugula with Basil-Mustard Vinaigrette
allyl isothiocyanate, caffeic acid, estragole, methyl eugenol

Menu analysis prepared by staff, directors, and scientific advisors of the American Council for Science and Health, with technical assistance from Dr. Ruth Kava, Director of Nutrition, and Dr. Leonard Flynn, scientific consultant.

ENTREES

Roast Turkey
heterocyclic amines

or

Prime Rib of Beef with Parsley Sauce
benzene, heterocyclic amines, psoralens

Bread Stuffing (with onions, celery, black pepper & mushrooms)
acrylamide, ethyl alcohol, benzo(a)pyrene, ethyl carbamate, furan derivatives, furfural, dihydrazines, d-limonene, psoralens, quercetin glycosides, safrole

Cranberry Sauce
furan derivatives

Vegetables

Broccoli Spears
allyl isothiocyanate

Baked Potato
ethyl alcohol, caffeic acid

Sweet Potato
ethyl alcohol, furfural

Rolls with Butter
acetaldehyde, benzene, ethyl alcohol, benzo(a)pyrene, ethyl carbamate, furan derivatives, furfural

DESSERTS

Pumpkin Pie
benzo(a)pyrene, coumarin, methyl eugenol, safrole

Apple Pie
acetaldehyde, caffeic acid, coumarin, estragole, ethyl alcohol, methyl eugenol, quercetin glycosides, safrole

Fruit Tray

Fresh Apples, Grapes, Mangos, Pears, Pineapple
acetaldehyde, benzaldehyde, caffeic acid, d-limonene, estragole, ethyl acrylate, quercetin glycosides

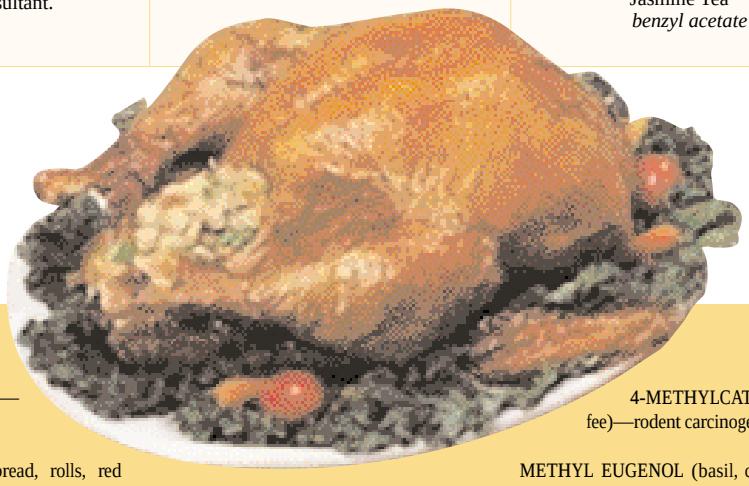
BEVERAGES

Red Wine, White Wine
ethyl alcohol, ethyl carbamate

Coffee
benzo(a)pyrene, benzaldehyde, benzene, benzofuran, caffeic acid, catechol, 1,2,5,6-dibenz(a) anthracene, ethyl benzene, furan, furfural, hydrogen peroxide, hydroquinone, d-limonene, 4-methylcatechol

Tea
benzo(a)pyrene, quercetin glycosides

Jasmine Tea
benzyl acetate



ETHYL BENZENE (coffee)—rodent carcinogen

ETHYL CARBAMATE (bread, rolls, red wine)—mutagen and rodent carcinogen

FURAN AND FURAN DERIVATIVES (bread, onions, celery, mushrooms, sweet potatoes, rolls, cranberry sauce, coffee)—many are mutagens

FURFURAL (bread, coffee, nuts, rolls, sweet potatoes)—furan derivative and rodent carcinogen

HETEROCYCLIC AMINES (roast beef, turkey)—mutagens and rodent carcinogens

HYDRAZINES (mushrooms)—mutagens and rodent carcinogens

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE (coffee, tomatoes)—mutagen and rodent carcinogen

HYDROQUINONE (coffee)—rodent carcinogen

D-LIMONENE (black pepper, mangos)—rodent carcinogen

4-METHYLCATECHOL (coffee)—rodent carcinogen

METHYL EUGENOL (basil, cinnamon and nutmeg in apple and pumpkin pies)—rodent carcinogen

PSORALENS (celery, parsley)—mutagens; rodent and human carcinogens

QUERCETIN GLYCOSIDES (apples, onions, tea, tomatoes)—mutagens and rodent carcinogens

SAFROLE (nutmeg in apple and pumpkin pies, black pepper)—rodent carcinogen

Happy Holidays to All

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

'TWAS the day before Thanksgiving
And all across the nation
Families gathered in prayer
With goodwill and salutation

As they assembled with loved ones
On their Holiday morning
Misguided alarmists
Gave dire chemical warnings

Preservatives, chemicals,
The products of science
Are bound to kill you
They screamed in defiance

Then along came a group
Not shamed by our wealth
The American Council
on Science and Health

With science and studies
Supporting their word
They proved the alarmists
Were quite absurd

Eat and drink, ACSH soothed
Don't fret and don't hurry
With a bounty of knowledge
Give thanks without worry

A nation blessed
Then exclaimed with good cheer
The best of the holidays
And a happy New Year!

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Are you a journalist who reports or writes about environment issues?
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Solar woes shock Sacramento

BY FRED SINGER

On September 6, the *Sacramento Bee* revealed that the showpiece of the city's municipal electric utility, an internationally known solar power program, is in shambles. It has fallen short of its goals, rocketed past its budget limits, lost its long-term chief, and left Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) directors scrambling to figure out how to salvage their commitment to renewable energy.

The disarray could have far-reaching implications. Other solar proposals could face a harsher climate if SMUD is faltering and stumbling in a major way. "Everyone with a real knowledge of the industry knows that SMUD's program is smoke and mirrors" and has promised solar systems at unrealistic prices, said Tim Townsend, a solar subcontractor who studied panel quality at a now-defunct research center in Davis.

Utility directors and managers say they remain committed to keeping some kind of solar program. But as internal audits showing the extent of the damage are completed, they are not sure just what will be left.

Already, SMUD has pulled the plug on any new installations of solar panels at commercial sites for the rest of 2002. It still will accept residential requests this year for the panels, which convert the sun's heat to electricity. But for 2003, nothing is certain—neither the price of solar systems nor the pace of their installation.

"It's a really miserable situation," said Genevieve Shiroma, SMUD board president. "I'm really shocked to hear that the program is basically in arrears."

SMUD had planned to spend $3.2 million in 2002 to help homeowners, businesses, government offices, and nonprofit groups install photovoltaic panels on their rooftops or grounds. Instead, on September 5 the board authorized spending more than twice that—at least $7.6 million. It has been warned the total may need to be upped to $9.5 million if SMUD cannot persuade the state to switch its stance on a solar subsidy.

> **"[Sacramento's] internationally known solar power program ... has fallen short of its goals, rocketed past its budget limits, lost its long-term chief, and left Sacramento Municipal Utility District directors scrambling to figure out how to salvage their commitment to renewable energy."**

Among the problems outlined for the board:

- The benefits of the solar program were double-counted in budgeting, making the program appear $1.9 million cheaper than it actually is.
- Solar panels cost far more than projected, partly because of delays and financial problems of a manufacturer that would have been SMUD's cheapest supplier. Higher prices from other manufacturers, sometimes up to 90 percent over budget, combined with delayed purchases, drove 2002 materials' costs $2.4 million over projections.
- Solar installations outside SMUD's area were mistakenly priced below cost, in essence making SMUD customers subsidize people in Davis and elsewhere.
- Contracts with suppliers were changed in violation of board policy and without board approval.
- The district counted on qualifying for various grants and subsidies that it didn't ultimately qualify for, and that sometimes existed only as ideas outlined in pending legislation.

The controversy leaves SMUD in the uncomfortable position of having to reassess what would have been a key piece of its landmark goal to get up to 20 percent of its power from non-hydroelectric sources of renewable energy by 2011.

It had been considering increasing its current 10 megawatts of solar power by as much as 30 to 40 megawatts over the next nine years. But that goal counted on far lower costs than SMUD now faces.

Today, with SMUD's $1 billion annual budget and the public's interest in solar power, several board members said they are willing to support a continued solar program even if it costs more.

S. Fred Singer, professor emeritus of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia and president of the Science and Environmental Policy Project, shares his thoughts on environment and climate news stories in "The Week that Was," a regular column available on the Web at www.sepp.org.

Debunking the solar energy myth

BOOK REVIEW BY JAY LEHR

The Solar Fraud: Why Solar Energy Won't Run the World
by Howard C. Hayden, PhD
Vales Lake Publishing, paperback, 224 pages

Howard Hayden, Professor Emeritus of Physics at the University of Connecticut, is the Mr. Wizard of alternative energy. Be it in the form of wind, hydropower, biomass, direct solar by photovoltaic cells, or solar collectors transmitting heat to a turbine, he explains the physics with joyful enthusiasm, but also objective reality.

Physics, we are often told, is dry enough to be a fire hazard. Physics underlies absolutely everything about solar energy. One would suppose, therefore, that solar energy must be boring beyond belief. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Solar energy inspires passion, enthusiasm, and devotion, but unfortunately the litany of unrealistic, rosy predictions of a solar future constitute a fraud not founded on the unshakable physics that determines the sun's capacity to supply our energy. It involves lying with statistics and attempting to manipulate the public into accepting what could only become a world of brownouts.

Hayden explains that Our Daily Bread would not exist if we did not use energy to till the soil, grind the grain, move the flour to bakeries, and bake the bread. Energy drives the economy, but he says it is a serious error to imagine it's simply a matter of profits. We would need energy to transport goods even if there were no profit-minded corporations. We use energy to build not only our homes, but also everything in our homes. Energy drives society, and solar energy does indeed play a role.

The solar niche

There have always been water pumps in remote locations, operated by wind energy. Now there are photovoltaic cells operating other pumps where conventional electricity is not available. Scientists and engineers almost universally recognize that solar energy is extremely useful in such niche applications. They also recognize that solar energy—using all conceivable technologies—will not be adequate to run an industrialized world.

On June 29, 1979, President Jimmy Carter called for a "national commitment to solar energy," with the goal of producing 20 percent of the nation's energy from various solar sources by the year 2000. It did not come to pass. All the solar heat collection systems built in the United States since 1974 account for less than 0.02 percent of our energy consumption.

Moreover, the number of hydroelectric generating stations increased during this time—from 3,275 in 1980 to 3,362 in 1995—but hydro's share of our electric energy consumption fell, from 12.1 percent to 9.8 percent. Combined photovoltaics, wind power, wood burning, and waste burning accounted for merely 1.6 percent of the electricity used in the U.S. in 1998.

Hayden describes the large solar industry in the United States made of honest business

SOLAR continued on page 14

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW Howard C. Hayden's *The Solar Fraud: Why Solar Energy Won't Run the World* is available in paperback for $24.95 from Amazon. com. Point your Web browser to **www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0971484503/theheartlandinst.**

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A page-turner on economics (!?)

BOOK REVIEW BY JAY LEHR

Why Energy Conservation Fails
by Herbert Inhaber, PhD
Quorum Books, paperback, 237 pages

Why Energy Conservation Fails is, in many ways, the most readable book on economics you will ever read. It is so innovative and fascinating in its approach that it is a page-turner.

Dr. Inhaber uses basic economic theory coupled with our well-known human nature to prove in dozens of ways that no artificial coercive strategy aimed at conserving anything can ever succeed. Through simple prose, supplemented with detailed illustrations and ample calculations, he makes his premise as certain as the law of gravity.

In making his case, Inhaber stands on the shoulders of giants of the past. These truths have been illustrated and handed down for centuries ... and yet the folly of coercive conservation runs rampant even today. Sadly, those who do not study the failures of the past are destined to repeat them, and that we do again and again.

Over the past two decades, Americans have been subjected to an unprecedented barrage of government edicts telling them to save energy, water, natural resources, and many other substances.

If we trade in a large car for a small one, surely we use less gasoline ... or do we? If cars are smaller and driving is cheaper, families may own two cars instead of one, and they will drive more miles with their cars. The counterproductive end result is that people will ultimately use more gasoline. Simple economic reasoning makes it clear: When the price of a commodity falls, more of it will be used than if its price had remained constant.

Conservation on a national scale does not and cannot exist. In the case of gasoline, its use has risen, not fallen, since the imposition of strict mileage standards in the late 1970s. According to those who advocated those laws, gasoline use should have declined.

In our homes, when we attempt to save electricity through improved insulation, our electric bill goes down ... so we tend to use more electricity in other ways, such as by raising our indoor temperature in the winter or lowering our indoor temperature in the summer.

Inhaber points out that Karl Marx made a similar mistake when he reasoned capitalism would fail when production efficiency increased, thereby making many employees redundant. He failed to see that with increased efficiency comes a decline in the effective price of a service or commodity and that in the face of a lower price, increasing demand will require more workers.

The statues of Karl Marx have come down all around the world, but the conservationists who say that saving a kilowatt hour here and there will reduce the total amount of energy we use still have a loyal following. Inhaber feels strongly that their efforts should be—and can be—thwarted by teaching simple economics to coercive conservationists.

Inhaber explains clearly how conservationists have always assumed that man would run out of this or that resource, though it never happens. Why? Because brain-power followed by improved technology leads to better ways to find and refine everything or to replace it with even better substitute materials in even greater abundance. Fiberglass, for instance, is formed from silica dioxide, the most abundant mineral in the Earth's crust.

While many of us try to save energy at home, we may imagine waste occurs frequently at the industrial level. At home we replace light bulbs when they burn out. In a factory, bulbs are replaced on a timed schedule to coincide with the average life of a bulb. Many perfectly good bulbs are discarded in this way ... but a tremendous amount of labor, and thus cost, is saved. Waste is in the eye of the beholder. For a manufacturing company, labor is too valuable to be wasted.

These examples are but a small illustration of the meticulous and comprehensive manner in which Dr. Inhaber dissembles the ill-fated do-gooders' desire to conserve a wide variety of resources that never were, are not now, and never will be in short supply. They overlook at every turn man's indomitable intellectual creativity, which allows him to expand or replace every imaginable resource.

Dr. Jay Lehr is Science Director for The Heartland Institute.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW The paperback edition of Herbert Inhaber's book, *Why Energy Conservation Fails*, is available from Amazon.com for $29.95. Point your Web browser to **http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1567205976/theheartlandinst**.

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SOLAR continued from page 13

people selling wind turbines, photovoltaic arrays, deep discharge storage batteries, solar heat collectors, wood stoves, and many other devices to enable people to collect solar energy in one form or another. They are meant for places where conventional energy is not available and for people passionate enough to own solar regardless of the cost.

None of these business people will ever tell you that solar can power the world. The people who do—including the likes of Ralph Nader, Denis Hayes (Earth Day founder), the World Watch Institute (Lester Brown), the Union of Concerned Scientists, or Environmental Defense, to name but a few—have an entirely different agenda uncomplicated by physics. They simply desire to destroy our industrialized society.

"Physics, we are often told, is dry enough to be a fire hazard. Physics underlies absolutely everything about solar energy. One would suppose, therefore, that solar energy must be boring beyond belief. Nothing could be farther from the truth."

Hayden explains the limited capability of every solar-related energy source by relating how the laws of physics impose certain inescapable shortcomings. Along the way he precisely quotes the many well-known energy charlatans making statements that defy the laws of nature.

- When it comes to wind, Hayden shows wind farms can generate electrical power at the rate of about 1.2 watts (W) per square meter (m2) for most sites, and up to 4 W/m2 in rare sites where the wind always comes from one direction. The goal is to generate enough energy to replicate a 1,000 megawatts power plant operating around the clock. To do that in California, for example, would require a wind farm one mile wide stretching all the way from Los Angeles to San Francisco.
- To produce as much energy as a conventional 1,000 megawatt power plant using solar would require a 127 square mile field of solar mirrors collecting enough heat to turn a turbine. Now that would have quite an environmental impact!

For decades, there have been delirious proclamations that the world would soon run on solar energy. Those statements have always sounded too good to be true and, sure enough, they have always been false.

Solar Fraud will arm you with the basic knowledge to understand all the physics of energy utilization. Energy use creates the power to run society, as well as the statistics that track man's lack of progress when attempting to overturn the laws of nature through the use of impractical energy sources.

Additionally, Hayden's collection of quotes from the purveyors of the solar fraud, when set side-by-side with the physical facts, will convince you that society is not being victimized by well-meaning, wrongheaded people. Instead, the purveyors of the solar energy fraud are intent on bringing industrial society to its knees by stifling society's true, nearly inexhaustible sources of energy.

Dr. Jay Lehr is Science Director for The Heartland Institute.

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Promises, promises, promises!

BY WILLIAM PERRY PENDLEY

In the early 1890s, the land in the northwest corner of Montana, almost due north of Kalispell, was settled by "homesteaders" pursuant to the Homestead Act of 1862. In 1901, access to those homesteads was assured by creation of a road, known today as Glacier Route 7, running 40 miles from Lake McDonald, in the south, to Kintla Lake, less than five miles from the Canadian border, in the north.

In 1910, Congress created Glacier National Park, placing within its borders all lands, including homesteaded lands, east of the North Fork of the Flathead River, an area called North Fork. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed a patent granting title to some of those North Fork lands, including lands that, in 1984, were purchased by Jack McFarland from his grandmother.

The Homestead Act granted the public the right "to enter" federal lands and to stake claims to those lands so as "to reside upon" them. Later, recognizing that it was including within Glacier National Park lands that had been homesteaded, Congress took steps to protect the rights of all homesteaders, providing: "Nothing [in the Glacier National Park Act] shall affect any valid claim, location, or entry existing under the land laws of the United States ... or the rights of any such claimant, locator, or entryman to the full use and enjoyment of his land."

Finally, the patent signed by President Wilson provided, "TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant, forever."

With such ironclad assurances, the homesteaders, their heirs, and assigns enjoyed full use and enjoyment of their private property in North Fork, including during the winter when portions of Glacier National Park were closed to the general public. Even after the National Park Service installed a gate at the Polebridge Ranger Station, property owners like Jack McFarland's grandmother were free to drive north on Glacier Route 7 to reach their private property. Moreover, the National Park Service went to great pains to guarantee that access by providing the property owners the means necessary to come and go as they pleased.

Fact of the matter is, the National Park Service knew that, by law, it could do no less. In its 1985 "Land Protection Plan for Glacier National Park," the National Park Service wrote: "Private land owners [in Glacier National Park] have certain rights that must be respected[.]" Although "[p]ublic access and use may conflict with private ownership," because "private property owner rights [are] guaranteed in the enabling legislation for the park[,]" and because "private property owner[s] retain[] reasonable and adequate use and enjoyment of [their] property[,]" the National Park Service has no power to deny access to that property.

Thus it was that, ever since 1910, landowners like Jack McFarland were able to use their property in all seasons, coming and going just as they pleased. In time, McFarland restored his grandmother's home, intending to live there permanently. As it always had, the National Park Service facilitated and encouraged McFarland's use of Glacier Route 7.

Then, in late 1999, the National Park Service sent McFarland an email; it had changed its "policy." As of now, "no one will drive park roads once they are closed to the public." McFarland's requests for authorization to continue to access his property year-round were in vain. So he sued, demanding the National Park Service obey all the promises made by Congress and President Wilson.

The great Lakota Chief Red Cloud declared, "They made us many promises, more than I can remember. But they never kept but one; they promised to take our land and they took it." Little wonder that Red Cloud's prophetic words are seen, not just in places like the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota, but in the homes of people like Jack McFarland.

William Perry Pendley is president and chief legal officer of the Mountain States Legal Foundation.

FORESTS continued from page 1

spending bill providing supplementary funds to fight terrorism. Daschle's measure stated that "due to extraordinary circumstances," allegedly unshared by other parts of the country, significant portions of South Dakota will be exempt from the yoke of controversial environmental laws and regulations championed by Daschle when applied to the rest of the country.

"The President has called on Congress to reduce the red tape forest managers must wade through before thinning forests," said Interior Secretary Gale Norton. "This is what Congress agreed to do in the Black Hills of South Dakota earlier this summer at the urging of Senator Tom Daschle. It's what we need to do across the West."

Promises unkept

The President's initiative is designed to attain long-standing federal forestry goals that have fallen victim to environmental litigation and bureaucratic red tape.

The 1994 Northwest Forest Plan sought to ensure healthy forests while simultaneously assisting the economy by allowing the production of a billion board feet of timber per year. A May 2002 agreement between the federal government and tribal leaders, local officials, and 17 western governors resulted in a 10-Year Fire Plan strategy to promote healthy forests and reduce the threat of severe fires.

Both the Northwest Forest Plan and the 10-Year Fire Plan were designed to promote healthy forests in significant part by thinning tree stands that have become overgrown. Regulatory, bureaucratic, and legal obstacles have prevented effective implementation of these programs.

Environmental consequences

Norton responded to critics of the President's initiative who argue thinning should be done only in the immediate vicinity of residential dwellings.

> **[F]orest birds historically common to the West are being pushed out of many forests. Their problem isn't too few trees, it's too many trees."**
>
> SECRETARY GALE NORTON
> DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

"Some environmentalists have criticized the initiative," explained Norton, "arguing that we should thin trees just in the 'urban interface' where residential areas meet the forests. In essence, they say we should address forest ecosystem health only in areas where there is a direct impact on humans.

"Obviously it is important to take steps to reduce fire danger around homes," she continued. "But we should also recognize the negative effects of overcrowded forests on wildlife and the widespread need for active forest management."

"The Healthy Forests Initiative will allow foresters to spend more time in the forest and less time in the courtroom battling environmental lawsuits," added Rep. John Thune (R-South Dakota). "For too long, exhaustive administrative regulations and frivolous environmental lawsuits have stopped sound and balanced forest management. It's time we cut the red tape, and protect lives and preserve the habitat instead of watching it go up in smoke."

Supporting Thune's assertions, Norton observed that "white-crowned sparrows, western bluebirds, rufous hummingbirds, white-headed woodpeckers, Lewis's woodpeckers, and other forest birds historically common to the West are being pushed out of many forests. Their problem isn't too few trees, it's too many trees."

"These birds need the relatively open forests that greeted Lewis and Clark, but a century of fire suppression has left western forests overgrown, in many places 15 times denser and choked with undergrowth," continued Norton. "As a result, populations of such birds are much lower in these forests than in other areas where foresters have maintained a natural density of trees and brush through either prescribed burns or thinning."

"Frequently cutting down small trees and removing undergrowth is beneficial to wildlife and ecosystem health," Norton added. "Fish and Wildlife Service biologists estimate that 46 species of western forest birds, including 13 species that are of great concern to wildlife biologists, would benefit from better management of our forests."

With the Healthy Forests Initiative stalled in the Senate, the fate of the proposal will likely be decided in the fall elections. Needing to pick up just a single seat to regain control of the Senate leadership, Republican gains in November would allow a simple majority vote on the President's initiative after the new Congress is seated. Under such a scenario, the initiative is almost certain to be enacted.

"The continuing threat to both people and wildlife is real," said Norton. "We must cut the red tape and restore the health of our forests."

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Measure 27: Oregon's war against biotech

BY DR. JAY LEHR

The voters of Oregon, who long have marched to their own drum beat, are being tempted by radical anti-capitalist groups to adopt a policy that would have terrible consequences for the nation and the world.

The organic food industry is seeking to make foods that benefit from biotechnology as expensive as those produced by organic farming. It is a shameful case of exploiting ungrounded public fears that Oregon voters ought to emphatically reject.

About Measure 27

In November, the people of Oregon will vote on Measure 27, a labeling law that would create a complex labeling scheme for food products; impose burdensome red tape and regulations on family farmers, grocers, and restaurants; require a new state bureaucracy costing hundreds of millions of dollars; and force all Oregon residents to pay millions of dollars more each year in higher food and beverage prices.

According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Measure 27's labeling requirements would apply to 500,000 different food and beverage products and menu items in grocery stores and restaurants. Many products would require special labels not required in any other state, creating an enormous headache for companies in Oregon and elsewhere that sell their products nationally.

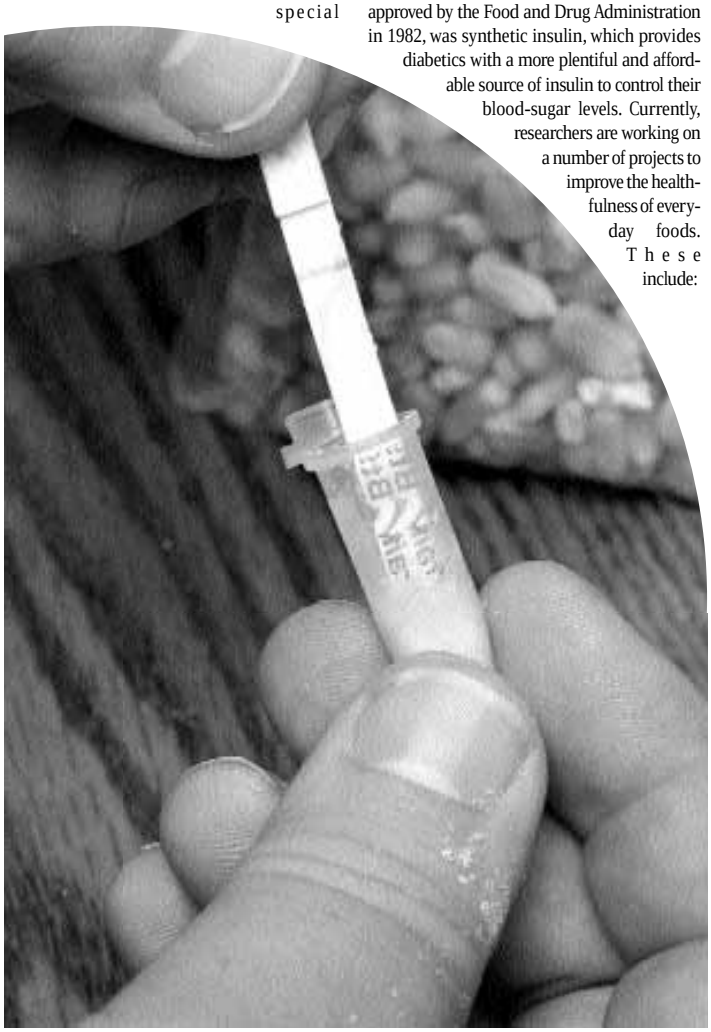
Opponents of Measure 27 estimate it will cost the average Oregon family $550 annually in higher taxes and higher food prices. A cursory look at the bureaucratic and productivity chaos the measure would create leads this writer to believe that estimate may be too low.

The benefits of biotech

Biotechnology is the scientific process of improving a plant by isolating a particular gene or trait in one organism and transferring it to another. It is the next step in the refinement of genetic enhancement techniques, such as cross-breeding, that began thousands of years ago with the domestication of wild plants for food production.

Biotech crops and food provide environmental, economic, nutritional, and disease-fighting benefits. They require fewer pesticides, help farmers conserve topsoil, and allow more food to be produced on less land. Some biotech foods offer improved nutrition, reduce required processing, offer lower levels of saturated fat, are fortified with vitamins, and allow fruits and vegetables to taste better and stay fresh longer.

The first commercial biotech product, approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1982, was synthetic insulin, which provides diabetics with a more plentiful and affordable source of insulin to control their blood-sugar levels. Currently, researchers are working on a number of projects to improve the healthfulness of everyday foods. These include:



- rice with more beta carotene to help combat the vitamin A deficiency now suffered by over 100 million children worldwide;
- lettuce fortified with a compound in grapes that has shown to be an effective anti-cancer agent; and
- soybean and canola oils with reduced saturated fats and higher levels of vitamin E.

Three federal agencies—the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration—evaluate the safety of biotech food products from inception to final approval. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has reviewed all available scientific research on genetically modified crops, and they have concluded there is no evidence the crops pose any danger to either human health or the environment.

In addition to the NAS, hundreds of studies have confirmed the safety of biotech crops and food. For example, in October 2001 the European Commission on Food Safety released a 15-year, $64 million study, which involved more than 400 research teams on 81 projects, that concluded biotech foods are as safe or safer than conventional food.

Perhaps the most amazing unchallenged statistic that tells the story of biotech safety is that in the past two decades, there has not been one allergic reaction or illness attributed to eating foods produced through bioengineering. If only the same could be said for the conventional food we eat!

The use of biotechnology for food production is now supported by many leading health organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Dietetic Association, the World Health Organization, and the Institute of Food Technologists. The promoters of Measure 27 are far outside the scientific and health mainstream. They are using Oregon's ballot measure process to push a radical anti-biotechnology agenda at the expense of Oregon taxpayers, consumers, and businesses.

Using biotech to feed the world

Most of the citizens of affluent nations can afford to pay more for food produced by "natural" or "organic" methods. The poor among us and the chronically undernourished people of impoverished nations cannot. They also cannot afford to have the promise of new agricultural technology nipped in the bud, as many anti-biotechnology activists wish.

Professional anti-biotech advocates have been agitating for years about the supposed threats to human health presented by bioengineered foods. Instead of being reassured by the results of scientific investigations into their concerns, they simply ignore the science and repeat their slogans. The developing world will pay a steep price for their selfish behavior.

While activists inveigh against introducing a gene from one plant or one species into another, they fail to note conventional breeders have been doing just that for many years. In the past, conventional plant breeders were forced to bring unwanted genes along with desirable ones when incorporating insect or disease resistance in a new crop variety. The extra genes often had negative effects, and it took years of cross-breeding and selection to oust them. Conventional plant breeding is crude in comparison to the methods being used in genetic engineering, where we move one or a few genes that we know are useful.

Some environmental extremists oppose the use of genetic modification that allows crops to be herbicide resistant, worrying herbicide resistance might be passed to wild relatives of the crops, and insecticide-producing plants will decimate insect life and decrease biodiversity. The truth is that resistance genes bred into crops by conventional means could also be spread to wild relatives by Mother Nature herself. Steps can be taken to minimize the possibility of that happening. The suggestion that insecticide-producing plants will wipe out insects is truly far-fetched. The claims of potential Monarch extermination, for example, have now been proved totally fraudulent.

What the activists don't want people to know is that one very good way to protect wildlife habitat is to ensure that marginal lands are not pressed into agricultural service in an attempt to feed growing populations. Norman Borlaug, a professor at Texas A&M University and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his accomplishments in agriculture, wrote in a *Wall Street Journal* editorial on December 6, 2000:

"In 1960 in the United States, the production of the 17 most important food, feed, and fiber crops was 252 million tons. By 1999 it had increased to 700 million tons. It is important to note that the 1999 harvest was produced on 10 million fewer acres than were cultivated in 1960."

Borlaug concludes that "If we had tried to produce the harvest of 1999 with the technology of 1960, we would have had to increase the cultivated area by about 460 million acres of land of the same quality—which we did not have."

It is this type of arithmetic that is so important when considering how to feed the world's still-increasing population. We have six billion people on the planet today, nearly a third of whom are undernourished. While population growth is slowing dramatically, we will still top out at about 8.5 billion people by mid-century. At that point in time, without the full benefits of biotechnology, a full half of the world's population would be undernourished. But with biotechnology, there is reasonable hope we can eliminate malnutrition everywhere on the planet.

The politics of famine

To insist, as extremists do, that we can feed the world with yesterday's agricultural technology is a delusion that will condemn millions to hunger, malnutrition, and starvation, as well as to social, economic, and political chaos. It is already happening.

Southern Africa is suffering its worst drought in a decade. The U.N. World Food Program estimates some 13 million people in six countries will need 1.2 million tons of food aid through March 2003 to avoid famine. Yet two countries, Zimbabwe and Zambia, have spent most of the summer rejecting food aid shipments of corn from the U.S. because some varieties of U.S. corn are genetically modified (GM). Incredibly, African leaders facing famine are rejecting per-

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW Robert L. Paarlberg's 2001 book, *The Politics of Precaution: Genetically Modified Crops in Developing Countries*, is available in paperback for $19.95 from Amazon.com. Point your Web browser to **http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0801868238/theheartlandinst**.

fectly safe food. What is going on here?

Regardless of the fact that farmers in the U.S. have been planting and Americans have been consuming genetically engineered corn, soybeans, and cotton since 1995, the "Greens" and other GM critics in Europe say this absence of expected or known risks is no longer sufficient evidence of safety. Touting the "precautionary principle," they argue that powerful new technologies should be kept under wraps until tested for unexpected or unknown risks as well. But of course testing for something unknown is logically impossible.

Europeans can perhaps afford hyper-caution regarding new crop technologies. Even without planting GM seeds, European farmers will continue to prosper, thanks to lavish subsidies, and consumers will remain well fed. The same is not true in the developing world, especially in Africa, where hunger is worsening in part because farmers are not yet productive.

Robert L. Paarlberg, of Harvard's Center for International Affairs and author of *The Politics of Precaution: Genetically Modified Crops in Developing Countries* (Johns Hopkins Press 2001), calculates that two-thirds of all Africans are farmers, most are women, and they are poor and hungry in part because they lack improved crop technologies to battle drought, poor soil fertility, crop disease, weeds, and endemic insect problems. Paarlberg says the productivity of African agriculture per farm worker has actually declined by 9 percent over the past two decades, which helps explain why one-third of all Africans are malnourished.

This ought to change the calculus of precaution. If GM-improved crops are kept out of the hands of African farmers, the misery of millions will be needlessly prolonged. By inducing African governments to embrace excessively cautious biosafety regulations, and by requiring stigmatizing labels and costly traceability certificates on all imported GM foods and feeds, wealthy and comfortable officials in Europe have made it more difficult for drought-stricken societies in Africa to accept food aid from America. European critics of GM foods did not foresee this potentially deadly misapplication of their precautionary principle ... or did they?

Who opposes biotech?

If Oregon's Measure 27 passes, socialist countries in Europe will be able to hold the United States up as an example of anti-biotech sentiments. This will enhance the status of many who, if the truth be known, do not want biotechnology to help feed the malnourished. They prefer to see the malnourished slide off the bottom rung of our planet's ladder rather than ascend to an improved quality of life. Who are these people?

- Some oppose helping the developing world feed itself because they are convinced this would cause overpopulation of the planet with its attendant environmental problems. They are wrong: Long-term population growth is considered under control by all of the world's leading population experts.
- Some biotech opponents are anti-capitalist socialists simply using the public's fear and uncertainty as a screen to advance their agenda. No one seriously doubts that the leadership of environmental groups—even so-called mainstream groups—is dominated by individuals whose political views are far to the left of the mainstream.
- Some European opponents of biotech wish to impede importation of GM food into their countries in order to protect their own products.
- And some anti-biotech advocates in the U.S. are financed by the organic foods industry, which sees biotech as a threat because it increases even further the differences in price between ordinary and organic produce.

Nobel Laureate Borlaug, when asked about organic farming benefits in a recent interview in *Reason* magazine, said:

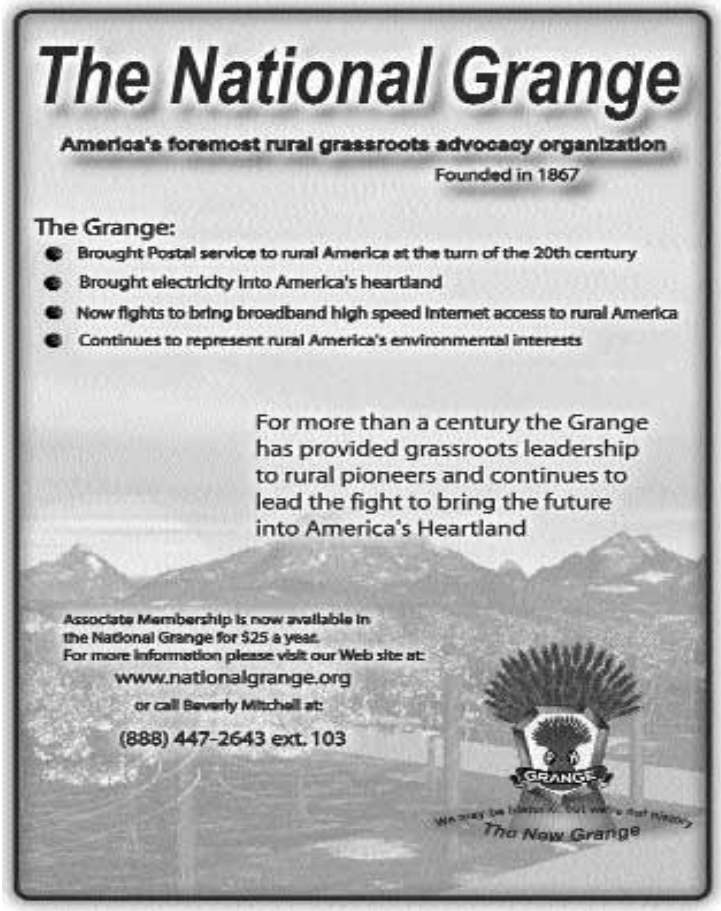
"If people want to believe that organic food has better nutritional value, it is up to them to make that foolish decision. But there is absolutely no research that shows that organic foods provide better nutrition. As far as plants are concerned, they can not tell whether the nitrate ion comes from an artificial chemical or decomposed organic matter. If some consumers believe that it's better from the point of view of their health to have organic food, God bless them. Let them buy it. Let them pay a bit more. It's a free society. But don't tell the world that we can feed the present population without chemical fertilizer. That is when misinformation becomes destructive."

> "The promoters of Measure 27 are ... using Oregon's ballot measure process to push a radical anti-biotechnology agenda at the expense of Oregon taxpayers, consumers, and businesses."

The labeling of both organic food and genetically modified food has been pushed by the organic food industry, whose public relations directors are nothing short of brilliant. The labeling of organic food gives government sanction to a potentially dangerous myth—that organic food is superior in any way to conventionally grown food. The labeling of genetically modified food, by contrast, is intended to frighten people into avoiding products that are absolutely safe. In the name of "consumer information," radical anti-biotech advocates manage to boost their product's perceived safety and undermine that of their lower-priced and just-as-safe competitors.

It is long past the time when sensible people should oppose the calls of those who would deprive the world's poor and hungry of the food they need and that new technologies have made available. On November 5, the citizens of Oregon have that opportunity.

Dr. Jay Lehr is Science Director for The Heartland Institute.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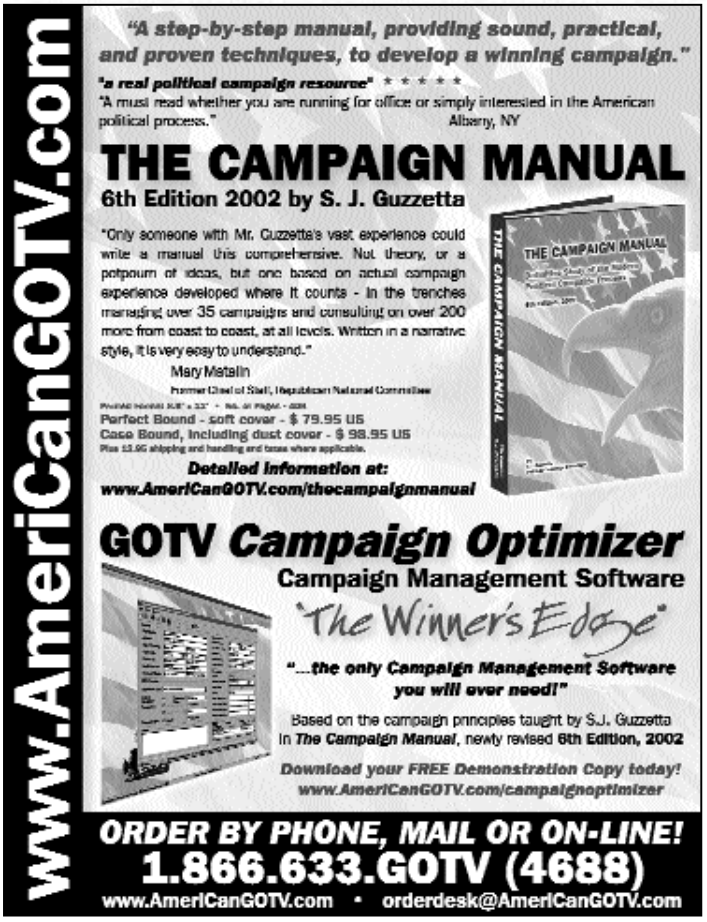
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EDITORIAL

President offers a way to address the forests debate

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Few issues have raised such intense emotion as President George W. Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative.

Private forestry, logging, and land management are venerable traditions in America. Concern for the health of forests among environmentalists inspired the pejorative phrase "tree hugger." Unless forest management and environmentalism walk hand-in-hand—and just as importantly, appear to walk hand-in-hand—the forestry debate will always be a very heated one.

Compelling evidence supports enlightened human management of our nation's forests. The President stood atop Squires Peak, an Oregon mountain summit, when announcing his Healthy Forests Initiative. The location could not have been more appropriate.

On one face of Squires Peak, the ashes of an old and failed forest policy lay literally at the President's feet. In an area where the forest had been allowed to accumulate excessive fuel without human management, the post-fire scene was like a moonscape. On the other face of the mountain, an area benefitted by fuel-thinning and proactive forest management, a healthy stand of Douglas firs reached toward the sky.

Both sides of the mountain had been subjected to the same out-of-control wildfire. "Come stand where I stand!" exclaimed the President, in a challenge to Congress and environmentalists. "We are trying to bring a little common sense to forest policy!"

Squires Peak is not the only real-life laboratory testifying to the benefits of proactive forest management. After an outbreak of wildfires six years ago blackened much of the Arizona landscape, Flagstaff assistant fire chief Jim Wheeler worked with officials in the Coconino National Forest to thin forests on 100,000 acres of land adjacent to Flagstaff. Earlier this year, the program proved remarkably effective.

In June 2002, at the same time and in the same vicinity that the deadly Fort Apache fire blazed out of control, a wildfire broke out near Flagstaff. However, unlike the Fort Apache fire, after the Flagstaff fire raced toward a subdivision of homes, the fire died out in a grove of ponderosa pines that Wheeler had thinned.

Competing plans

The Healthy Forests Initiative has some potential shortcomings. Implementing the program could prove very expensive. Does handing more and more money to government agencies ever solve real-world problems? Moreover, the federal government has proven itself quite inept at managing the public lands it currently owns. It's difficult to imagine government agencies could proactively, effectively manage more than a fraction of government-owned forests. Is it worth spending perhaps tens of billions of dollars every year for only a partial solution?

The common-sense solution to this dilemma would be for the government to re-privatize the forests, returning them to private owners who have personal financial stakes in their proper management. That doesn't seem likely anytime soon.

Both sides of the debate agree forests are far denser today than in centuries past. This is largely due to the twentieth century practice of extinguishing fires as soon as they are spotted. In earlier times, more frequent fires cleared out the dead trees, brush, and other fuels that allow today's fires to become so catastrophic.

Opponents of the President's Healthy Forests Initiative argue fires should be allowed to burn as they naturally did prior to the twentieth century. By focusing fire suppression efforts on areas immediately adjacent to human dwellings, the forest will be more "natural" and the wildfire toll on property and human lives will be minimal.

Unfortunately, returning to a "let it burn" policy may not be desirable or feasible. The killer fires of recent decades have raged so intensely they have sterilized the soil, preventing forest recovery for decades to come. Having disturbed the natural order, simply allowing "nature" to take over would result in sterilizing thousands and perhaps millions of acres of forests. The toll on wildlife and air quality, to say nothing of rural communities and national resource industries, would be unacceptable.

The uncertainties inherent in widescale proactive forest management help make the President's Healthy Forests Initiative very appealing. Administrative and budgetary practicalities restrict the President's initiative to only a small portion of our nation's forests, providing an opportunity to see the real-world results of competing forest management plans.

Even if the President's initiative is implemented, well over half of our national forests will be subject to the status quo of fuel accumulation followed by severe fire. Much like our federalist form of government allows states to serve as laboratories regarding issues of national interest, the Healthy Forests Initiative would allow our nation's forests to serve as laboratories to assess the real-world pros and cons of proactive forest management.

Let's put the competing plans to the test, and let the best plan win!

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